

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PORG, ID, ICRC

SUBJECT:GOI PLANS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND
ICRC VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS

REF: JAKARTA 10124

1. REFTEL REPORT APPRECIATED. WE ARE GLAD TO KNOW OF PLAN
TO RELEASE 8900 POLITICAL DETAINEES DEC. 1 AND LOOK FORWARD
TO POSSIBLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN SUHARTO'S AUG 17 SPEECH.

2. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LIM BIAN KIE'S WORD
THAT 900 DETAINEES ON BURU ISLAND WILL BE RETURNED TO JAVA
AROUND END OF YEAR. WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL
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DETAILS EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN ON THIS.

3. ALTHOUGH DEPT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT CONSTRUCTIVE USE
MIGHT BE MADE OF IT, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACCEPT SUDOMO'S
OFFER TO FURNISH EMBASSY THE NAMES OF THE 1975-76
RELEASEES UNLESS EMBASSY FORESEES SOME SORT OF TRAP
INVOLVED. WE DISCUSSED THIS OFFER INFORMALLY BY TELEPHONE

WITH ICRC WHICH BELIEVES AS WE DO THAT WE SHOULD NOT REJECT
WHAT APPEARS TO BE A FORTHCOMING OFFER. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS
EMBASSY SEES REASON NOT TO, YOU MAY INFORM SUDOMO THAT WE

ACCEPT HIS OFFER AND THAT HE CAN BE ASSURED WE WILL NOT
RELEASE INFORMATION PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH.
IN THIS REGARD, DOES EMBASSY KNOW IF SIMILAR OFFER BEING
MADE TO ANY OTHER INTERESTED EMBASSIES?

4. ICRC'S VIEW OF PESTALOZZI'S DISCUSSIONS CONTINUES TO
BE SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN SUDOMO'S, ALTHOUGH THEY
ARE OF COURSE HOPEFUL THAT FORTHCOMING INDONESIAN RED
CROSS REP'S VISIT WILL INDEED HELP CLEAR UP OBSTACLES.
REGARDING MAY 4 BULLETIN STATEMENT, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS
THAT ICRC IS NOT PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THIS STATEMENT,
BUT IS PREPARED TO ISSUE NEW STATEMENT REFLECTING A
CHANGED SITUATION ONCE ICRC VISITS RESUME. IF GOI HAS IN
FACT DECIDED TO PERMIT VISITS WITH PRIVATE INTERVIEWS THAT
IS OF COURSE A MAJOR STEP.

5. FYI: ICRC ADVISES THAT NESSI WILL SHORTLY END HIS
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASIA (INCLUDING INDONESIA) TO CONCEN-
TRATE ON LATIN AMERICA. ON AN INTERIM BASIS HIS ASIA
WORK WILL BE HANDLED BY PIERRE GUBERAN (WHO FORMERLY
SERVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM) UNDER OVERALL SUPERVISION OF
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE. CHRISTOPHER
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